

(*Warren, Ohio*) – Today, Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17) and Governor Ted Strickland pledged their support for the Youngstown Early College program, which was recently terminated by the Board of Directors at Youngstown State University due to budget shortfalls. Following the announcement of the program termination at YSU, Congressman Ryan and Governor Strickland spoke with Dr. Laura Meeks, President of the Eastern Gateway Community College, to gauge the interest of her institution in continuing this successful college preparation program. The Congressman and Governor also wrote a letter to the YSU Board of Trustees (text of letter is attached to this release) requesting assistance in transitioning the Early College program from YSU to EGCC.

“The provision of a quality education for *all* of our Valley’s young people is the highest priority of this community, and Youngstown Early College is a valuable tool in the pursuit of that goal”

stated Congressman Ryan.

“Governor Strickland and I believe strongly in this successful college-prep program and will do whatever we can to ensure a productive and seamless transition from YSU to EGCC.”

□

Governor Strickland added,

“We have made a commitment to education in Ohio, and have worked to preserve important programs and opportunities even as we face budget difficulties. Programs like the Youngstown Early College program are critical to student success and preparation for college and the workforce. We will work with the education community in Youngstown to make sure that this program is available for students for years to come.”

□

Find more information regarding Youngstown Early College [here](#) .

Find more information regarding Eastern Gateway Community College [here](#) .

#

March 3, 2010

Board of Trustees

Youngstown State University

One University Plaza

Youngstown, Ohio 44555

Dear Members of the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees:

We recently became aware of your decision to end the role with the Youngstown Early College program, and are looking for ways and assistance to preserve this critical and highly successful program.

It has been our position since the vote was taken that we would do all that we can to make sure a successful program like Early College would continue. With the support of Dr. Wendy Webb, Youngstown City Schools Superintendent, we have initiated discussions with the Administration of Eastern Gateway Community College and have a commitment from them to continue the Early College. We are very excited by that prospect and are very grateful to Dr. Laura Meeks, President of Eastern Gateway Community College, and for the enthusiasm and support she has shown for the Early College.

To help in the transition from YSU to Eastern Gateway Community College, we are asking for the support of the YSU Board of Trustees in allowing the Early College to remain at its present site on the YSU campus for the 2010-2011 academic school year. In addition, we are asking that other matters-to be identified by both Youngstown State University and Eastern Gateway Community College-be open to negotiation so that the transition for the students be as effortless and seamless as possible. Eastern Gateway Community College has also made a commitment to work with Youngstown City Schools and negotiate an equitable agreement to continue the Early College.

We believe that the Early College is an asset to the students it educates and the community at large. We want to ensure that it continues-and that educating our children remains the highest priority. We hope that you will join us in this endeavor as we work to move the Early College from Youngstown State University to Eastern Gateway Community College. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Governor Ted Strickland

Congressman Tim Ryan

This letter has been endorsed by the following Legislators:

Senator Capri Cafaro

State Rep. Sandra Harwood

State Rep. Robert Hagan

Senator Joseph Schiavoni

State Rep. Tom Letson

State Rep. Ron Gerberry